



UTILITIES CO.

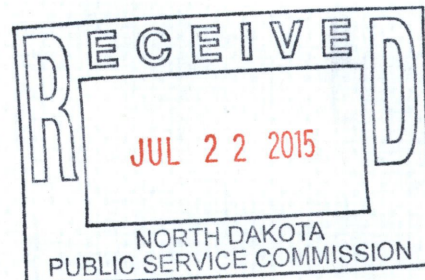
A Division of MDU Resources Group, Inc.

400 North Fourth Street  
Bismarck, ND 58501  
(701) 222-7900

ORIGINAL

July 22, 2015

Executive Secretary  
North Dakota Public Service Commission  
State Capitol Building  
Bismarck, ND 58505-0480



Re: Case No. PU-15-\_\_\_\_  
Joint Application for a Transfer of  
Certificate of Site Compatibility for the  
Thunder Spirit Wind Project

Montana-Dakota Utilities Co., a Division of MDU Resources Group, Inc., herewith files an original and seven (7) copies of this Joint Application for a Transfer of Certificate of Site Compatibility for the Thunder Spirit Wind Project located in Adams County near Hettinger, North Dakota. The Project is expected to be in commercial operation by December 2015.

Please refer all inquiries regarding this filing to:

Ms. Tamie A. Aberle  
Director of Regulatory Affairs  
Montana-Dakota Utilities Co.  
400 North Fourth Street  
Bismarck, ND 58501

Also, please send copies of all written inquiries, correspondence and pleadings to:

Daniel S. Kuntz  
Associate General Counsel  
MDU Resources Group, Inc.  
P.O. Box 5650  
Bismarck, ND 58506-5650

David R. Moeller  
Senior Attorney  
ALLETE, Inc.  
30 W. Superior St.  
Duluth, MN 55802

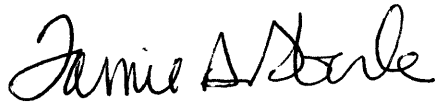
1 PU-15-592 Filed 07/22/2015 Pages: 8  
Joint Application for Transfer of Certificate of Site  
Compatibility  
Thunder Spirit Wind / Montana-Dakota Utilities Co.  
Tamie Aberle

Montana-Dakota is including a check in the amount of \$5,000.00. In the event the Commission determines an additional fee is required to cover anticipated expenses of processing the Application, Montana-Dakota shall remit such amount in accordance with North Dakota Century Code Section 49-22-22d.

Montana-Dakota respectfully requests that this filing be accepted as being in full compliance with the filing requirements of this Commission.

Please acknowledge receipt by stamping or initialing the duplicate copy of this letter attached hereto and returning the same in the enclosed self-addressed, stamped envelope.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tamie A. Aberle". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Tamie" being more prominent.

Tamie A. Aberle  
Director of Regulatory Affairs

Attachments

cc: Daniel S. Kuntz  
David R. Moeller  
Maggie Thickens



**BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION  
OF THE STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA**

In the Matter of the Joint Application of       )  
MONTANA-DAKOTA UTILITIES CO., a       )  
Division of MDU Resources Group, Inc.       )  
and Thunder Spirit, Wind, LLC, a       ) Case No. PU-15-\_\_\_\_  
subsidiary of ALLETE Clean Energy for a       )  
Transfer of Site Compatibility Certificate       )  
for the Thunder Spirit Wind Project

**JOINT APPLICATION FOR A TRANSFER OF SITE COMPATIBILITY CERTIFICATE  
FOR THE THUNDER SPIRT WIND PROJECT**

COMES NOW, Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. (Montana-Dakota or Applicant), a Division of MDU Resources Group, Inc., and Thunder Spirit Wind, LLC, a subsidiary of ALLETE Clean Energy (ACE or Applicant), the Applicants in the above-entitled proceeding, and make application pursuant to North Dakota Century Code Chapter 49-22 and North Dakota Administrative Code Article 69-06 for the transfer to Montana-Dakota of the First Amended Certificate of Site Compatibility for the Thunder Spirit Wind Energy Project, Certificate Number 35, Case No. PU-11-601 issued to Thunder Spirit Wind, LLC for up to 75 wind turbines and associated facilities totaling up to 150 MW in Adams County, North Dakota.

That Applicants full names and post office addresses are:

Montana-Dakota Utilities Co.,  
a Division of MDU Resources Group, Inc.,  
400 North Fourth Street  
Bismarck, North Dakota 58501

Thunder Spirit Wind, LLC,  
a subsidiary of ALLETE Clean Energy  
30 W. Superior St.  
Duluth, MN 55802



II.

That Montana-Dakota is a Division of MDU Resources Group, Inc., a Delaware corporation duly authorized to do business in the State of North Dakota as a foreign corporation, and that it is doing business in the State of North Dakota as a public utility subject to the jurisdiction of and regulation by the North Dakota Public Service Commission (Commission) under N.D.C.C. Title 49, as amended.

III.

That Montana-Dakota's Certificate of Incorporation and amendments thereto have been previously filed with the Commission under Case No. PU-08-710 and such Certificate and Amendments are hereby incorporated by reference as though fully set forth herein.

IV.

That this Application is being made pursuant to the provisions of N.D.C.C. Chapter 49-22-07 and North Dakota Admin. Rule Chapter 69-06-01-02(4).

V.

Pursuant to this Application, Montana-Dakota and ALLETE Clean Energy seek to transfer the Certificate from Thunder Spirit Wind, LLC effective upon the closing of the sale of the Thunder Spirit Wind Energy Project from Thunder Spirit Wind, LLC to Montana-Dakota. Montana-Dakota agrees to assume the rights and obligations of Thunder Spirit Wind, LLC contained within the Certificate issued in accordance with and subject to the conditions and limitations of the Order, including the certifications made in the Certification Relating to Order Provisions – Wind Energy Conversion Facility Siting and Tree and Shrub Mitigation Specifications dated August 6, 2013 and incorporated by reference in the Order and all subsequent requirements as required by the Commission



during the construction of the project. An affidavit of Jay Skabo, Vice President, Electric Supply of Montana-Dakota is attached and incorporated herein by reference.

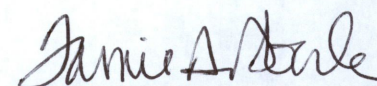
VI.

The initial phase of Thunder Spirit will consist of 43 Nordex 2.5 MW turbines. The project site is comprised of approximately 26,867 acres located within Sections 1 through 36 in Duck Creek Township 130N, Range 95W and Sections 13 through 14 and 34 through 26 in Holt Township 130N, Range 96W in Adams County. The required easements have been obtained and the Adams County Commission has been apprised of the project. Construction began on the project on or about April 20, 2015 and has continued as reported pursuant to the Order requirements.

WHEREFORE, Applicants respectfully request that the Commission, following publication of a notice of opportunity for a public hearing in the official newspaper in Adams County:

1. Grant to the Applicants, without hearing unless there is both a request by an interested person and a showing of good cause, a transfer of the Certificate to Montana-Dakota effective upon the closing of the sale of the Thunder Spirit Wind Project from Thunder Spirit Wind, LLC to Montana-Dakota.
2. Grant such other relief as the Commission shall deem appropriate.

Dated this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of July, 2015.



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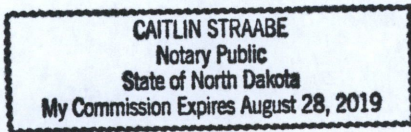
Tamie A. Aberle



Subscribed and sworn to before me this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of July, 2015.

Caitlin Straabe

Caitlin Straabe, Notary Public  
Burleigh County, North Dakota  
My Commission Expires: 08/28/2019



Of Counsel:

Daniel S. Kuntz  
Associate General Counsel  
MDU Resources Group, Inc.  
P.O. Box 5650  
Bismarck, ND 58506-5650

David R. Moeller  
Senior Attorney  
ALLETE, Inc. 30 W. Superior St.  
Duluth, MN 55802



**BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION  
OF THE STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA**

In the Matter of the Joint Application of )  
MONTANA-DAKOTA UTILITIES CO., a )  
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and Thunder Spirit, Wind, LLC, a ) Case No. PU-15-\_\_\_\_  
subsidiary of ALLETE Clean Energy for a )  
Transfer of Site Compatibility Certificate )  
for the Thunder Spirit Wind Project )

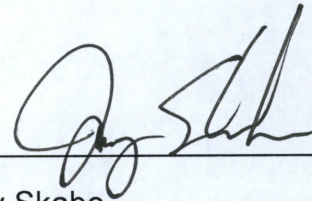
**AFFIDAVIT OF JAY SKABO**

STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA )  
COUNTY OF BURLEIGH ) :ss

1. I am the Vice Present of Electric Supply for Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. (Montana-Dakota) a Division of MDU Resources Group, Inc. and I make this affidavit on the basis of my own personal knowledge and belief as to the matters contained herein.
2. I am familiar with the Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, and Order, adopted by the Commission on October 9, 2013 and the Commission's Supplemental Order issued on August 14, 2014 in Case No. PU-11-601 and with the First Amended Certificate of Site Compatibility Number 35.
3. Montana-Dakota agrees to assume the rights and obligations of the First Amended Certificate of Site Compatibility Number 35 including the conditions and limitations set forth in the Commissions Finding of Fact, Conclusions of Law, and Order issuing said Certificate in Case No. PU-11-601 as well as the certifications made in the Certification Relating to Order Provisions and incorporated by reference in the Order.

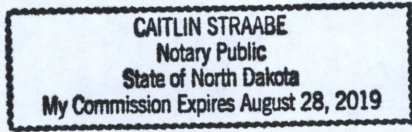
Subscribed and sworn this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of July, 2015.

By: \_\_\_\_\_

  
Jay Skabo  
Vice President of Electric Supply



Subscribed and sworn to before me this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of July, 2015.



Caitlin Straabe

Caitlin Straabe, Notary Public  
Burleigh County, North Dakota  
My Commission Expires: 08/28/2019

OF COUNSEL:

Mr. Daniel S. Kuntz  
Associate General Counsel  
MDU Resources Group, Inc.  
P. O. Box 5650  
Bismarck, ND 58506-5650